

ECUMENICAL PRESS SERVICE

Published under the auspices of the : World Council of Churches · International Missionary Council
World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations · World Young Women's Christian Association
World Student Christian Federation · World Council of Christian Education · United Bible Societies

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No. 40/28th Year

27th October, 1961

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Presbyterians, Lutherans Plan Theological Discussions

(New York) - In an effort to explore their doctrinal agreements and differences, representatives of all major Presbyterian, Reformed, and Lutheran churches in North America will begin theological conversations early next year.

Emphasizing that the discussions are "purely theological" and that "merger is not being discussed", plans for the informal talks were announced jointly by Dr. James I. McCord, president of Princeton Theological Seminary, and Dr. Paul C. Empie, executive director of the National Lutheran Council.

Their announcement said the talks have been arranged to explore the theological relationship between the Lutheran and Reformed churches and "to discover to what extent differences which have divided these communions in the past still constitute obstacles to mutual understanding".

Among the most controversial issues in the past, it was pointed out, were those centring on the Lord's Supper and Christology, election and predestination, and policy and discipline.

"Our discussions have no immediate purpose in view other than an examination of the subjects chosen", the announcement said. "There is no proposal that these conversations are to be directed toward a goal of pulpit and altar fellowship, or union, or similar objectives."

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1941, October 1, 1941

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Dr. McCord, as secretary of the North American Area of the World Presbyterian Alliance, issued the invitation to the Lutherans after he and his colleagues had followed "with great interest the Lutheran-Reformed theological conversations in Germany and France".

The invitation was tentatively accepted by the National Lutheran Council last March, and concurrence in the preliminary plans for the discussions was then obtained from the executive committees of the World Presbyterian Alliance and the Lutheran World Federation.

It is expected that the discussions will be conducted by 16 theologians, including six representatives of the US members of the Alliance, six from US members of the LWF, two from the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and two from any Reformed or Presbyterian bodies that are not members of the Alliance, but wish to participate.

The first meeting is tentatively scheduled for January, 1962. According to the planning committee's proposed agenda, this initial session will be devoted to an historical review of the relations between Lutheran and Reformed churches with special attention to the controversial issues which have divided them, and an evaluation of these issues in light of contemporary thought in both communions.

EPS, Geneva

Soviet President Confers with Serbian Orthodox Patriarch

(Moscow) - Soviet President Leonid I. Brezhnev gave an audience here to Patriarch German, head of the Serbian Orthodox Church, who was on a visit to the USSR, together with a group of leaders of his own church and the autonomous Orthodox Church of Macedonia in Yugoslavia.

A representative of the State Council on Orthodox Church Affairs, who was present at the audience, later reported that the churchmen spent 30 minutes chatting with Mr. Brezhnev. He described the audience as taking place "in a friendly atmosphere".

Patriarch German said he was "very pleased" at the reception given him by "such a high Soviet official". He did not disclose what subjects were discussed.

Observers here commented that only rarely have top Soviet authorities received churchmen. They said the last such audience was given in 1958, when Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev received Patriarch Alexei, head of the Russian Orthodox Church.

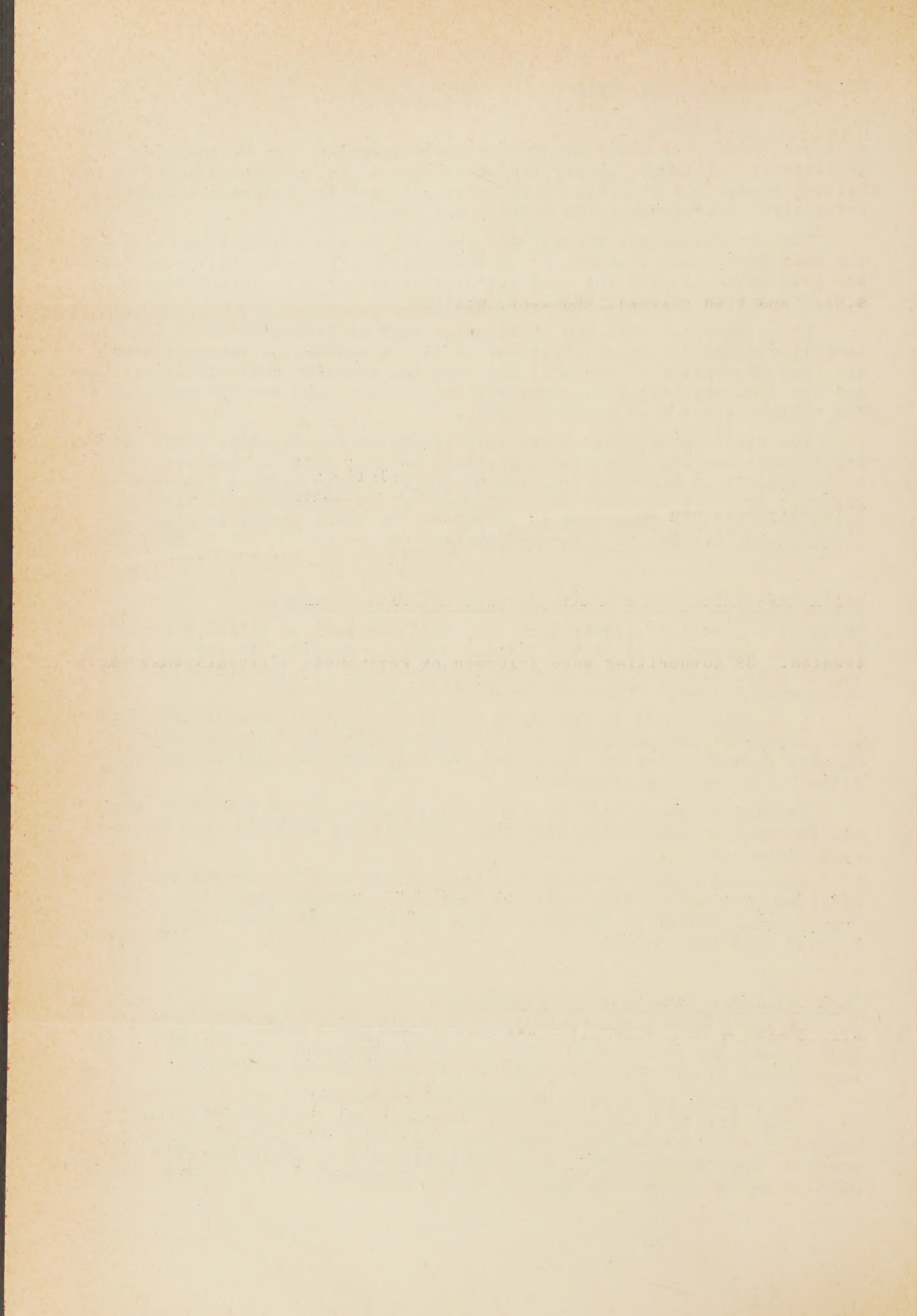
EPS, Geneva

Dutch Churches Plan Joint TV Programme

(The Hague) - Protestants, Old Catholics, and Roman Catholics in the Netherlands are co-operating in a new Bible broadcast for children. The sponsorship by all three churches is unique in Dutch television.

The series, which will be presented in two parts every fortnight, will start with a cycle on the Old Testament and the life of David. A second cycle starting after Christmas will deal with Old Testament prophecies concerning Easter. The programmes will be presented over Station IKOR, a broadcasting organization of the churches.

EPS, Geneva



Four Methodist Missionaries Await Trial in Lisbon

(Lisbon) - The Portuguese Foreign Office has disclosed that four US Methodist missionaries arrested in Angola have been brought to Lisbon to stand trial on charges of "conniving with groups of terrorists".

The statement said Portuguese authorities have "definite proof" of the terrorist connections of the Rev. Wendell Lee Golden, Rockford, Ill.; the Rev. Edwin LeMaster, Lexington, Ky.; Marion Way, Jr., Charleston, S.C.; and Fred Brancel, Endeavor, Wis.

The statement contended that, while full details of the missionaries' activities "cannot yet be disclosed as it would hamper investigations", they had instigated "actions hostile to the state", and had given "assistance to the terrorist movement".

The arrests, which took place on September 5, brought an immediate protest from the Methodist Board of Missions in a telegram to US Secretary of State, Dean Rusk.

Contending that it believed that "these missionaries have been illegally detained and unjustly charged", the board said that "it is inevitable that the preaching of the Gospel has certain implications, among which are the basic concepts of the brotherhood of man, the equality of all men before God, the individual worth of human personality, and the dignity of the individual".

In Washington a State Department spokesman said American consular officials had visited the prisoners and reported they were being well treated. US authorities were informed by Portuguese officials that requests by relatives to visit the missionaries "will be promptly considered".

In July, Portuguese police in Angola arrested another American Methodist missionary, the Rev. Raymond E. Scott, of Palco, Kansas, and deported him to Switzerland after holding him incommunicado for 28 days.

EPS, Geneva

Scottish Leader Deplores Russian Nuclear Tests

(Edinburgh) - The Commission of the Assembly of the Church of Scotland was told here that Russia's resumption of nuclear tests represents "an appalling example of man's ruthlessness, cynicism and duplicity".

The charge was made by Professor James Pitt-Watson, of Glasgow, a former moderator of the General Assembly, who noted that the Russians resumed the tests "just when there was a glimmer of hope in the world's darkness".

Accusing Russia of engaging "in a policy of nuclear blackmail", Professor Pitt-Watson declared: "It is now obvious that preparations for these tests had been made while the Russian ambassadors were engaged in negotiations for a peaceful settlement".

"Behind all the talk of statesmen, strategists, politicians, and publicists, we know what they know, that we are living in a political madhouse", he added. "The only logic now being used is the logic of lunacy. The danger is that, under pressure, we would surrender to that logic in the present infantile game of nuclear tit-for-tat."

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THE HISTORY OF THE
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FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT
TO THE PRESENT TIME
BY
JOHN B. HENNING, ESQ.
OF THE BARR

IN TWO VOLUMES.
VOL. I.

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The commission unanimously adopted a resolution urging the British Government to continue its present policy of not testing atomic weapons, and to take every possible step to secure the cessation of testing by other countries. (See EPS No. 39)

EPS, Geneva

Indian Official Defends Missionary Work Among Aborigines

(New Delhi) - The right of Christian missionaries to supply medical and relief aid to aboriginal tribes was defended in the Indian Parliament by Lal Bahadur Shastri, the country's Minister for Home Affairs.

Replying to a member of parliament who had charged that the government was abandoning its duty to aid backward tribes by permitting missionaries to handle their social welfare, Mr. Shastri said:

"If they (the missionaries) open a dispensary or hospital we cannot and should not prevent it. If such projects are fronts for forcible conversions, they must be prevented."

However, D. N. Datar, India's Minister of State, noted that no new instances of questionable missionary endeavour had come to the government's attention.

Mr. Datar, who was instrumental last year in defeating a bill aimed at curbing conversions to Christianity, reminded the parliament that India's constitution guarantees freedom to profess, practise and propagate any religion.

EPS, Geneva

Evangelicals Warned Against "Super Church" in US

(Wheaton, Ill.) - Establishment of a "super-church" in the United States could restrict the rights of churches outside such a union, ministers of the Evangelical Free Church of America were told here.


The warning came from Dr. Arnold T. Olson, of Minneapolis, president of the denomination, which is associated with the National Association of Evangelicals and International Federation of Free Evangelical Churches.

"A super-church could obtain 'territorial rights' to locations of new churches in the communities and only dole them out to those in the union", he said. "Space in the press, time on radio and TV would also be under the control of this union church."

Calling for an ecumenism which would not involve the surrender of personal liberties, congregational independence or denominational distinctiveness, Dr. Olson said:

"In striving for an ecumenical church, many confuse union with unity. Unity of the spirit is needed, not a union of the churches. Thought doctrine has been and can be divisive, real unity will be found in a creed based on the Scriptures and fostered by the Holy Spirit."

EPS, Geneva



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Progress Seen for United Church in Australia

(Sydney) - Plans for a United Church in Australia will probably be at the discussion stage by 1963, according to the Rev. N. L. Lickiss, newly-elected president of the Methodist Conference of New South Wales.

In his presidential address, Mr. Lickiss said the theological basis of union among Presbyterian, Methodist, and Congregational churches is generally accepted, and that co-operation between these churches is already a fact in many areas. EPS, Geneva

Methodist Bishop Sees "Snobbery" as Unity Obstacle

(Philadelphia, Pa.) - Bishop Fred Pierce Corson, president of the World Methodist Council, said here that ecclesiastical snobbery is one of the major obstacles to Christian unity.

"It is snobbery whenever one group acts as if it had the only right way to God", Bishop Corson declared at the presentation of the third annual St. George's Award for outstanding service to the church. The award is sponsored by Old St. George's Church here, the world's oldest Methodist church in continuous existence.

Bishop Corson said the Christian Church is threatened not alone by Communism, but by its "lack of alertness to what is happening in free society and to the increasingly pagan attitudes of free peoples".

"People do not think of themselves as free agents made in the image of God", he declared, "but as cogs in a vast economic and social machine, devoid of any sense of personal responsibility."

Recipients of the award were Dr. John O. Gross, of Nashville, Tenn., general secretary of the Division of Educational Institutions of the Methodist Board of Education, and Edwin L. Jones, head of a Charlotte, N.C., construction company, treasurer of the World Methodist Council, and chairman of the Lake Junaluska Assembly in North Carolina. EPS, Geneva

Indian Priests Named RC Observers at Assembly

(Bombay) - Two Indian priests who will attend the Third Assembly of the World Council of Churches as official Vatican observers have been named here. They are Father Joseph Edamaran, S.J., of Calicut, head of the Jesuit vice-province of Kerala, and Father Ivan Extross, Chancellor of the Diocese of Allahabad in northern India.

Both were nominated by the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, headed by Augustin Cardinal Bea, on the recommendation of Valerian Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay. The secretariat is one of the special bodies set up by Pope John XXIII in connection with the Second Vatican Council.

Three other Vatican observers, all named by the secretariat last September, will also attend the Assembly of the World Council of Churches, which embraces 175 Protestant and Eastern Orthodox bodies in over 50 countries.

They are Father Edward Duff, S.J., director of the Institute of Social Order, St. Louis, Mo., and author of "The Social Thought of the World Council of Churches", a book widely discussed by Protestant leaders; Father M. J. Le Guillou, member of the well-known Istina ecumenical centre in Paris; and Father Jan C. Groot, appointee of the Netherlands Hierarchy for ecumenical work.

EPS, Geneva

African Churches Unite to Train Clergy

(Alice, Cape Province) - Several of the churches in the Christian Council of South Africa have agreed to combine their resources and set up a joint theological seminary in Alice, Cape Province, to train African and Coloured ministers.

They have done so because laws passed by the South African government have caused some of the existing theological colleges to be closed and will close others in the near future.

The land at Alice on which the seminary will be built has been made available by the Church of Scotland. It is near the University of Fort Hare, and although the new seminary will not need to be dependent on the university, it will be able to use the facilities of the university's Faculty of Theology.

It is expected that, to begin with, there will be four colleges, to meet the needs of the Anglican, Congregational, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches. In addition to the denominational training which they will receive in the colleges, the students will attend the central seminary for lectures.

It is hoped that building will begin early next year, and that the first of the two hundred theological students whom it will be possible to train there will come into residence at the beginning of 1963. The co-operating bodies will provide a staff of eleven lecturers to begin with.

EPS, Geneva

Bishop Denies Reversal of Vote on Lanka Church

(London) - An Anglican bishop said here that the vote by the House of Bishops of the Convocation of York (Church of England), at its meetings earlier this month concerning relations with the proposed Church of Lanka (Ceylon), did not reverse an earlier decision.

Erroneous press reports which "may lead to serious misunderstanding" are responsible for the misconception, said the Rt. Rev. Gerald Elliston, Bishop of Chester, in a letter printed in the Church Times, unofficial Anglican weekly.

In May the House of Bishops had voted, with only one negative vote, in favour of a motion that full communion should be established with the proposed new church from its inauguration.

It was widely reported at the October meeting that the bishops had reversed this decision and decided against full communion by a vote of seven to four. (See EPS No. 38)

Such was not the case, writes the Bishop. The October vote, he says, was merely on the procedural issue as to whether the debate should be re-opened, or alternatively, whether the Convocation should simply transmit an account of what happened in May to the Church of India, Pakistan, Burma, and Ceylon (CIPBC).

"By its vote the Convocation accepted the advice of the Majority Report that it would be unwise at this juncture to re-open and re-debate an issue which had already received careful consideration in May. In so deciding it did not indicate any reversal of its previous decision on the issue of full communion." Bishop Elliston had presented the Majority Report to the October meeting.

In the Convocation of Canterbury the House of Bishops voted unanimously last May for full communion. The House of Clergy of Canterbury, meeting in October, agreed that the province should enter into full relations with the new church from the outset - on condition that the initial rite of unification of the ministeries be regarded as conferring episcopal ordination on those who had not already received it.

Anglican circles here tend generally to deny that the votes of the two Convocations should be interpreted as a rejection of the Lanka Scheme. Rather, they should be regarded as "qualified acceptance", they feel. They place emphasis on the remarks of the Archbishop of Canterbury who, in opening the debate, declared:

"My fear is that, at this stage, the rejection of the Lanka Scheme might throw back the undoubted tendency existing in so many non-episcopalian quarters to look towards unity on the basis of integration with the historic episcopate. There may be better ways found of doing it; but the danger is that a rejection may bring discouragement to the considering of any way at all."

Many Anglican leaders explain the fact that the Convocations did not give an unqualified answer to the question from the CIPBC, as to whether the provinces of the Church of England would enter into full communion with the Church of Lanka on its inauguration, by saying that there was a strong feeling that the CIPBC was asking the Convocations to take a responsibility which was inappropriate at this stage.

The Church of Lanka would bring together Anglicans (from two dioceses of the Church of CIPBC), Methodists, Baptists, and Presbyterians.

EPS, Geneva

Russian Orthodox Church Names Observers to Third Assembly

(Moscow) - The Russian Orthodox Church has announced the names of fourteen members of its delegation to the Third Assembly of the World Council of Churches. Two other persons will be named later. The Georgian Orthodox Church has also named an observer and guest.

The group from the Russian Orthodox Church will attend sessions the opening day of the Assembly, November 19, as observers. On Monday morning, October 20, the Assembly is expected to take action on the application of the church for WCC membership. If that action is affirmative, the observers will be seated as full voting delegates for the remainder of the Assembly.

Head of the group will be Archbishop Nikodim of Jaroslavl and Rostov, head of the Office of Foreign Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate. The group includes two persons who have attended WCC Central Committee meetings in 1959 and 1960 as observers - Archpriest Vitaly Borovoy, of the Leningrad Theological Academy, and Mr. Victor Alexeev, a layman who is Research Officer of the Office of Foreign Relations.

The remainder of the Russian Orthodox group are: Archbishop John of Middle Europe, Berlin; Archbishop Sergius of Perm and Solykamsk; Bishop Nicolas of Mukachevo and Uzhgorod; Archimandrite Pitirim, Vice-rector of Moscow Theological Academy; Archimandrite Leonty, Dean of Assumption Monastery in Odessa; Hieromonk Juvenaly, Foreign Church Relations Department; Priest Vladimir Kotliarov, Professor, Leningrad Theological Academy; Alexandre Chishkin, Editor Moscow Patriarchate Magazine; Alexis Buevskiy, Secretary Foreign Church Relations Department; Ivan Varlamov, Foreign Church Relations Department; Boris Kudinkin, Foreign Church Relations Department.

The observer from the Georgian church, which is one of the most ancient autonomous Orthodox churches in the world, is Efraim Sidamonidze Efraim Shoiewitch, Catholicos Patriarch of All Georgia. He will be accompanied by Archdeacon Shiolashvili Ilia Georgievitch, who will attend the Assembly as an official guest.

EPS, Geneva

Djakarta Christians Organize New Co-operative Body

(Djakarta) - Churches and various civic, educational, and labour agencies in Djakarta, Indonesia, have set up a Co-operative Council of Christian Activities - the first of its kind in the history of the city.

An announcement said the new body was developed "as part of the realization of the rapid growth of the ecumenical movement" in Indonesia, and is intended to be a "Christian witness in all fields of life in the nation's capital city". Observers have termed it "a revolutionary step" in co-operative work in the country.

Co-operating are some sixty churches, representing nearly all the denominations in the city, and ten Christian civic, educational and labour organizations. The new body is directed by a 12-member executive committee, which includes Dr. J. E. Tulung, vice-president of the Indonesia Christian Council of Churches; the Rev. P. H. Rompas, M.Th., a member of Parliament; the Rev. Soesilo Djojosoedarmo, Chief of Navy Chaplains; Dr. W. B. Sidjabat, professor of the Divinity School; and General T. B. Simatupang, former Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Indonesia.

EPS, Geneva

Polish Lutherans Say "Atmosphere Not Right" for Conversations with Catholics

(Warsaw) - Polish evangelical leaders here have issued a statement saying they are "unable to take seriously the present efforts for unity of Roman Catholics" in Poland, "as long as the Roman Catholic Church has not made good the damage which it inflicted on our church after the war."

Officers of the church council of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburgian Confession (Lutheran) said that until such restitution is made "the atmosphere is not right for establishing ecumenical contacts and conversations". Until that time, they added, they cannot have confidence in the "ecumenical plans" of the Roman Catholic Church.

The latter comment was an allusion to a meeting of Roman Catholic and Evangelical leaders in September (See EPS No. 34). Following the meeting Dr. Zigmunt Michelis, a leading theologian was reported by Tygodnik Powszechny, a Catholic newspaper, to have said, among other things, that while the "mariology cult" in the Catholic church is one of the factors dividing Protestants and Catholics, "Protestants often unjustifiably ignore Mary's role and this should be remedied".

These comments and others had filled Evangelical leaders with "concern and anxiety", their statement continued, noting that Dr. Michelis does not have the authority to speak on behalf of the church and that his views were "purely personal".

EPS, Geneva

Christianity Reportedly Survives in Laos Under Hardships

(New York) - Christians in Laos are continuing to practise their faith in the face of tremendous physical hardships, according to reports received here by the Christian and Missionary Alliance from the Rev. T. J. Andrianoff, chairman of the denomination's Laotian mission field.

In his report, Mr. Andrianoff said that some 45,000 civilians have had to leave their homes because of fighting between the rebels and government troops. Most of them are from the Kieng Khouang province where Mr. Andrianoff worked, and about 4,000 of them are Christians, he said.

These Christians continue to hold regular, sometimes nightly services, in the jungle. In one encampment, several hundred Christians among the refugees made a church "building" out of an old parachute and improvised communion cups out of tin cans, he reported.

Some of the Christian refugees who have reached Vientiane are helping Mr. Andrianoff and other Alliance missionaries prepare packets that are dropped from planes to refugee centres in the jungle. These packets contain a blanket, cotton material for clothing, and plastic sheeting to protect the refugees from the rain or to cover the muddy ground when they must sleep outside.

The Alliance headquarters sent an initial gift of \$5,000 to finance these packets. A drive for emergency relief funds for the refugees has been started throughout the denomination.

EPS, Geneva

CCIA Head Urges No USA Testing, Despite USSR Blast

(New York) - Despite the Soviet Union's explosion on Monday of a thirty-megaton test bomb, the United States should not resume atmospheric tests and, awaiting the outcome of the General Assembly debate, should conduct no further underground tests, Dr. O. Frederick Nolde, director of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, has told a meeting here.

Speaking before announcement of the Soviet's test had been made, Dr. Nolde said the US should follow this line, "no matter what motives" prompted the Soviet test.

He appealed to the United Nations General Assembly formally to call upon the Soviet Union to reconsider its plans to explode the bomb, "It is not impossible", he declared, "that the Soviet Union is manoeuvring for a position where, in response to an insistent world opinion, it will forgo the announced test and, with an appearance of sensitiveness to popular demand, will thus be relieved of criticism against itself because of the extensive atmospheric tests conducted these recent weeks. Nevertheless, the risk that the Soviet Union may gain some political advantage must be taken in the interest of humanity's well-being." He added:

"While the Soviet Union's cancellation of its announced test would obviously not clear the atmosphere of the pollution from recent tests, it could provide a new starting-point for a treaty which will be legally binding, contain a system of adequate verification, and thus more readily ensure compliance with its provisions than was possible under the previous moratorium.

"While I offer these observations as an expression of my personal views, I believe that they substantially relate the positions of the World Council of Churches and the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs to the present situation.

"The World Council of Churches and its Commission on International Affairs have, during recent years, expressed deep concern about nuclear weapons testing, and have repeatedly urged the negotiation of agreements to cease such testing, with provisions for international inspection and control.

"At various times when spokesmen for any government have proposed the unilateral resumption of testing, CCIA officers have impartially registered their opposition, whether in personal consultation or in public statements.

"In view of these actions, extending over a number of years and widely endorsed by the member churches, officers of the World Council of Churches expressed profound concern and dismay at the announcement by the Soviet Union of its unilateral decision to resume experimental explosions of nuclear weapons.

"It is now necessary to speak urgently and forcefully because large-scale testing, and indeed, testing of any kind, without international consent or control will surely accelerate the armaments race, increase the risk of war, and affect the health of present and future generations.

"A world conscience must be stirred and world public opinion consolidated, in order that conditions may be favourable to a resumption of negotiations designed to bring about speedily a reliable agreement to cease tests."

EPS, Geneva

New Anglican Evangelical Fellowship Formed

(Sydney) - A new Evangelical Fellowship in the Anglican Communion has been formed under the presidency of the Primate of Australia, the Most Rev. H. R. Gough.

The founder group members are the Church of England Evangelical Council, and similar groups in Canada, New Zealand, Tanganyika, and Australia. Individual members also come from the United States, Asia, and Africa.

An announcement of the new body said it would seek to foster fellowship between Anglican Evangelicals "to encourage the isolated and the faint-hearted, reminding them of the larger body to which they belong"; "to federate regional Anglican Evangelical Fellowships, and to encourage the formation of such where none exists"; and "to bear witness with courage and charity to the great Biblical and Reformation principles, so that the Evangelical voice is heard and commended, and an increasing Evangelical contribution made throughout the Anglican Communion."

The sponsors in a statement issued last week further declared: "Perhaps a word of reassurance is needed by those who may view the formation of the Evangelical Fellowship in the Anglican Communion with suspicion or even dismay. Its purpose is not partisan in any narrow or negative sense, but positive and eirenic." "

Owing to travel costs it is not expected the Council of Fellowship, which will consist of two representatives from each member group, will be able to meet more than once every five years during the Lambeth Conference and the Pan-Anglican Congress. However, a spokesman said it is hoped members may hold an informal meeting during the Third Assembly of the World Council of Churches this November in New Delhi. EPS, Geneva

Nobel Prize Winner

(Oslo) - Chief Albert John Luthuli, the Zulu leader, who with the late UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld was awarded the Noble Peace Prize this week, is a convinced Christian who has long been active in the life and mission of his church.

A pacifist, who has repeatedly affirmed that "no Christian has the right to oppose violence with violence", he has twice been imprisoned for his protests against the South African government's apartheid policies.

When notified of the award, Chief Luthuli, who will be unable to receive the prize personally because he is forbidden by the South African government to leave his village in Natal, declared: "This is a great honour for me. I am truly moved by this news, but proud also because this prize is an honour for my country and its people, especially for those who fought and suffered in the struggle to liberate all South Africans from the bonds of fear and injustice."

Alan Paton, the prominent South African novelist and fighter against apartheid, commented: "This is wonderful news which will do a lot for South African prestige."

Chief Luthuli, a member of the Congregational Christian Church in South Africa, was educated in mission schools in Natal and later taught in in mission schools. He has been a prominent leader of the National Christian Council of South Africa and in the work of the International Missionary Council, attending one of that organization's conferences in 1938, in Madras.

He was elected chief of his tribe in 1935, and since 1944 has been a member of the African National Congress. When the congress in 1952 started disobedience campaigns against racial discrimination, the South African government demanded that Mr. Luthuli leave the organization. When he refused, the government deposed him from his chieftainship. Shortly afterward he became president of the congress.

In 1960 the African National Congress was banned. The same year Luthuli was arrested. Today he is confined to his village. EPS, Geneva

50,000 Flee from African Tribal War: Churches Feed the Starving

(Geneva) - Fighting between the Watutsi warriors and their former serfs, the Bahutu, as Ruanda-Urundi in Central Africa struggles into independence, has led to a mass refugee movement.

It is officially estimated that 10,000 refugees have fled into the Congo and Uganda and that 40,000 more are hiding in the interior of Ruanda.

To help feed these homeless people, many of whom are threatened with death from starvation, churches around the world, through the World Council of Churches, have made emergency grants amounting to \$20,000 to the Church Missionary Society in Kampala. In addition, \$13,000 have been received by the WCC from churches in Britain and the Netherlands, and Church World Service in the USA, in response to an earlier appeal this year.

But a front-line despatch from Dr. G. Talbot Hindley, secretary of the CMS Ruanda Mission, says that the churches, while doing what they can, are able to help only a small proportion of the people in need.

"There must be wandering about the country 50,000 homeless individuals who are seeking either to get into some other country or fend for themselves until things get better", Dr. Hindley has written to headquarters of the World Council of Churches in Geneva.

Here are extracts from his report:

"In parts of the country there is terrible devastation. The situation is fast deteriorating. Now anything may happen. Many hundreds of people have been killed or wounded, and families and homes have been broken up.

"On the station from which I am now writing we have at least 1,500 refugees who have fled from Ruanda where there is a systematic purge of all royalists.

"We have over 700 refugees living in our site at Astrida. At Nyanza, near the old royal court, there are well over 2,000 refugees entirely dependent for livelihood and protection on what we can do for them. Our school centre at Shyogwe also has several hundred, and these numbers are being increased every day. At other pastorate centres there are anything from 100 to 300 refugees. Gahini has seen well over 2,000, but many of these have now been taken over into Uganda.

"We cannot say what the future will be. . . ."

EPS, Geneva

IN BRIEF

It is likely that the first prayers for the Third Assembly of the World Council of Churches on the Assembly's opening day, November 19, will be offered in the town of Invercargill, New Zealand. Invercargill is both the nearest town in the world to the South Pole and the nearest to the International Date Line. Churches in the town are planning a combined service of prayer for the Assembly.

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The largest Protestant evangelism crusade ever held in Austria has just concluded in Vienna. More than 2,000 persons attended rallies every evening for a period of nearly a month. The "Campaign of Faith" was organized by German radio evangelist Anton Schulte, in co-operation with the Vienna Evangelical Alliance.

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The campaign of the Swiss churches - "Bread for the Brother" - has got off to an excellent start. Fund organizers report that at the end of September, only a few weeks after it was started, the campaign had raised Frs. 292,000 (US \$67,750). Funds will be sent for use in under-developed countries.

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Special services for the United Nations and international peace were held in the Protestant churches of Austria, Sunday, October 22. A statement issued by Protestant officials in Vienna asking for the services, said that: "The menacing international situation and the death of Dag Hammarskjold have again forced everyone to realize the absolute necessity for a world-wide organization to work for peace and international justice, and to deal with emergency situations."

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The German Evangelical Missionary Conference has appealed to medical doctors to offer their services, either permanently or temporarily, for work in underdeveloped countries. The appeal emphasized that medical missions have been an important means of spreading the Christian Gospel, and are regarded by younger churches as one of their most important needs.

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A home will be erected in Salonica for 50 Armenian refugees who are presently living in impoverished conditions in northern Greece. Funds for the project have been provided by the Norwegian Council for Refugees and the Gulbenkian Endowment in observance of the centenary of Fridtjof Nansen, father of modern refugee relief service. The Association of Swiss Friends of Armenia, which maintains three homes for Armenians in Athens, will direct the new programme.

EPS, Geneva

CORRECTION

A story titled "Free Churches Study Union Possibilities", EPS No. 37, page 8, inadvertently gave incorrect information concerning "The Great Ejection". The number of clergymen ejected from English parishes in 1662 is estimated by different contemporary sources as being from 1,200 to 2,000. The majority were not strictly "Anglicans", but ministers who had taken charge of the parishes after the legal replacement of Anglicanism of Presbyterianism, by Act of Parliament in 1646. EPS regrets this error.